

Worksession

Agenda Item #	8
Meeting Date	March 19, 2007
Prepared By	Mary Kendall, CSAFE Program Director
Approved By	Barbara B. Matthews City Manager

Discussion Item	CSAFE Program Funding (Funding the CSAFE Community Organizer/Outreach Coordinator)
Background	<p>The Maryland International Corridor CSAFE Program is a multi-jurisdictional community-based crime prevention initiative in the Takoma-Langley Crossroads (an area that includes Montgomery County, Prince George's County and the City of Takoma Park). The program's three goals are to reduce crime, reduce recidivism and improve the quality of life in a targeted geographic area.</p> <p>To date, the City of Takoma Park has not committed any of its general operating monies to the Maryland International Corridor CSAFE Program other than through in-kind contributions such as IT support. The City's allocation of CDBG funds will not be continued beyond FY07 due to CDBG program requirements.</p> <p>At the worksession on February 26, 2007, the CSAFE Program Director requested that the City Council authorize \$10,000 - \$15,000 on an annual basis beginning in FY08 towards the cost of the Montgomery County Community Organizer/Outreach Coordinator position. A similar request is being made to the Montgomery County Police Department, so that the position is funded jointly by the two jurisdictions. In upcoming years, the requested allocation of funds may increase to allow for the continued advancement of the program's objectives.</p> <p>The City Council requested that the new Chief of Police be given an opportunity to evaluate the CSAFE program and make a recommendation to the Council. Chief Ricucci has prepared a memo, which is attached to this cover sheet.</p>
Policy	The City Council is ultimately responsible for the development and adoption of the City's annual budget and the services to be provided by the City government.
Fiscal Impact	\$10,000 - \$15,000 per year
Attachments	Memo from Chief Ricucci regarding his review of the CSAFE program
Recommendation	Staff recommends that the City Council consider the request of the CSAFE Program Director and provide direction to guide the City Manager's preparation of the FY08 budget.
Special Consideration	The City Council discussed the need for a more stable funding source for the Maryland International Corridor CSAFE Program during the FY07 budget progress. According to the City Manager, the City Council committed to provide such funding at that time, in keeping with the financial support provided by the City for the Safe Takoma initiative.

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CITY OF TAKOMA PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

To: Barbara Mathews, City Manager

From: Ronald A. Ricucci, Chief of Police

RAR

SUBJECT: Review of CSAFE Program

DATE: March 15, 2007

The CSAFE program was started in 2001 as the Hot Spots Program which was changed in 2003 to the CSAFE program. The program was set up to directly address the following factors that contributed to crime:

- Residents distrust of Police.
- Residents lack of knowledge of how to prevent crime.
- Presence of gang activity.
- Lack of rehabilitative support for the ex-offender.

The grant cover four areas which I will describe along with what we do to accomplish goals in that area.

1. Local Coordination:

Partnerships between Police Departments, other agencies, community members and stakeholders.

Accomplishments:

- Coordinate joint law enforcement activities, pedestrian safety initiatives, speed enforcement, crosswalk stings, educate pedestrians and distribute pedestrian safety literature.
- Conduct joint roll calls once a month with representatives from Montgomery County, Prince Georges County, Takoma Park, Parole and Probation and Juvenile Services.
- Heat Teams- Representatives from local jurisdictions meet to discuss crime trends and parole and probation cases.
- Joint Bicycle Patrol planned in the spring.

2. Offender Supervision:

Support for offender services, reentry and criminal prosecution.

Accomplishments:

- Follow up actions plans of Parole and Probation cases.
- Parole and Probation officers team up with patrol officers to conduct house visits.
- Opportunities Fair for ex-offenders.

3. Community Mobilization:

Encouraging residents to become proactive about community improvements, crime prevention and safety.

Accomplishments:

- Coordinates “Business Watch” among the three jurisdictions.
- Facilitates Crime Preventions Plans.
- Pedestrian safety activities are coordinated thru this office.
- National Night Out, Community Summits, Weed and Seed initiatives and neighborhood block parties.

4. Anti Gang Initiatives:

Decreasing gang influence through leveraging resources to fill service gaps and encouraging community involvement in anti-gang initiatives.

Accomplishments:

- Established the Identity Crossroads Youth Center at 7676 New Hampshire Ave. It provides a clinical social worker, GED training, Jobs Skills training, case managers, recreational programs and mentoring.
- Maryland Multi Cultural Youth Center, 7411 Riggs Rd., the same as Identity but provides more job skills training.

SUMMARY:

Grants for the last year were for \$119, 000 with \$25, 000 from Montgomery County, \$9, 000 from Takoma Park and a in-kind contribution of a community organizer from Prince Georges County. We are applying again for grants so the program can continue. There is no guarantee each year that the grants will continue.

SUCCESS:

- Cross Jurisdictional information sharing.
- We have built strong relationships with the community
- Multi agency enforcement activities
- We identified resources to help the offender community.

Areas for Improvement:

We continue to have high turnover because of inconsistent funding which causes staff to leave. If the grant is not renewed and the jurisdictions don't continue funding of this initiative, the following would occur.

1. Communication between the three jurisdictions would suffer without a facilitator.
2. Communication with the community and law enforcement would suffer.
3. Crime down in the target area may begin to increase.
4. Parole and Probation relationships with the police would decline.

I have visited and spoke at length with Chief Thomas Manger, Montgomery County Department of Police, Commander Betsy Davis, 3rd District Commander, Montgomery County Department of Police and Major Kevin Davis, Hyattsville District Commander, Prince Georges County Police, concerning the program. All agreed we need to continue this initiative, we have six years of success which we want to continue to build upon. We need to commit to keep this going. We need to keep our current dedicated staff.

Recommendation:

This program has been a success especially under the current leadership. It has made a difference in the quality of life in our community. We as a city must ensure that it continues if the funding dries up. This program is an example of a joint collaborative effort that works and makes a difference.